## Message Text

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**ACTION CU-03** 

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: NMA PROJECTS IN EDUCATION

**REF: STATE 133962** 

1. EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPT WITHDRAW ITS RESERVATIONS TO PROPOSED NMA PROJECT ON "APTITUDE IN THE EDUCATIVE PROCESS PROJECT"" FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

(A) PROJECT AS NOW DESIGNED HAS ALMOST NO RELATIONSHIP TO UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS THEREBY REDUCING ITS POLITICAL SENSITIVITY; (B) NEGATIVE REACTION MIN/EDUCATION OFFICIALS TO CRITICISM OF THIS PROJECT WHEN THEY ASSUMED FUNDING HAD ALREADY BEEN APPROVED; (C) ADVANCED STAGE OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT, WHEREIN MIN/ED OFFICIALS HAD INFORMALLY OBTAINED COMMITMENTS TWO AMERICAN EDUCATIONISTS PARTICIPATE THIS PROJECT.

2. "APTITUDES" PROJECT HAS EVOLVED RECENTLY INTO AN AMBITIOUS STUDY OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY IN SPAIN. ITS SPECIAL FOCUS IS THE UNEQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES, AND ITS IMPLIED POLICY GOAL IS THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF SPANISH EDUCATION. THE PROJECT DIRECTORS PLAN TO CONDUCT RESEARCH SURVEYS OF (A) BACKGROUNDS, VALUES AND PERCEPTIONS OF PRIMARY /SECONDARY SCHOOL DIRECTORS AND TEACHERS; (B) SOCIAL BACKGROUND AND EDUCATION/JOB ASPIRATIONS OF STUDENTS; (C) PARENTS PERCEPTION OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND INTER-ACTION WITH CHILDREN'S LEARNING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROCESS, AN ANALYSIS WILL ALSO BE MADE OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF

PRESENT EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES. FINALLY, STUDENT GROUPS REPRESENTING ALL SOCIAL ORIGINS AND EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUNDS WILL BE GIVEN A BATTERY OF TESTS TO MEASURE THEIR ACQUIRED LEARING. STUDY EXPECTS TO SHOW NOT ONLY THAT CHILDREN OF CERTAIN SOCIAL BACKGROUNDS WILL BE EXPOSED TO DISTINCT EDUCATIONAL INPUTS AND STIMULI, BUT ALSO TO MEASURE AND PINPOINT THOSE DIFFERENCES. 3. NMA FUNDING WOULD COVER: (A) THE 30-45 DAY VISIT IN AUG-SEPT OF THREE PROJECT DIRECTORS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, AND OTHER POINTS TO HAVE WORK SESSIONS WITH PROF. COLEMAN, WHOSE RESEARCH IN THIS FIELD IS SERVING AS A MODEL FOR THE SPANISH STUDY: (B) VISIT TO SPAIN OF PROF. FELDMAN OF U/NORTHWESTERN. SEPT-DEC. 1975 TO WORK DIRECTLY AT INCIE (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES) IN GUIDING AND INTERPRETING SURVEY DATA; (C) VISIT OF PROF. STINCHCOMBE OF U/CALIFORNIA TO SPAIN IN JAN-MARCH 1976 PERIOD. REPORTEDLY, COLEMAN AND FELDMAN HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMMITTED TO COOPERATE.

4. INCIE HAS ALREADY INVESTED CONSIDERABLE TIME AND SOME MONEY IN CONDUCTING PRELIMINARY SURVEYS FOR THIS PROJECT. FURTHERMORE, MOST OF THE PROJECT COSTS ARE BEING BORNE BY INCIE AND NOT BY NMA FUNDING.

5. PLS ADVISE ASAP DEPT. REACTION TO NEWLY DESIGNED PROJECT.

6. EMBASSY WILL ADVISE DEPT ON UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT AS SOON AS CONVERSATIONS ARE COMPLETED WITH MIN/EDU OFFICIALS THIS SUBJECT.

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